

**PATENT IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 10/759,746  
Applicant: Fernandez-Salas, E., *et al.*  
Confirmation No.: 6885  
Filed: January 16, 2004  
  
Group Art Unit: 1649  
Examiner: Wang, C. Y.  
  
Docket No.: 17355CIP4 (BOT)  
Customer No.: 51957  
Patent Title: Methods of Identifying  
Compounds that Alter Toxin Persistence and/or  
Protease Activity

**FILED ELECTRONICALLY - JULY 24, 2006**

**APPLICANT'S REPLY**

July 24, 2006

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir,

This 26 page communication is responsive to a Non-final Office Action mailed May 26, 2006. The Office Action has been carefully considered, and the Applicants have the following comments:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of the Applicants' Reply.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 4 of the Applicants' Reply and are reflected in the listing of claims.

**Remarks** begin on page 12 of the Applicants' Reply.